

# JS118: Theories of Crime and Deviance

**Danielle A Harris**

**Lecture: Tuesdays and Thursdays  
Spring 2007, San Jose State University**

## Contact Details:

Office Hours: Tuesday 2:30 pm – 5:30 pm

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Website: (for lecture notes and class materials): <http://dharris.50webs.com/>

## Class Description:

Criminology, the study of crime, attempts to describe the nature and extent of crime, to explain its causes and to examine the reasons for and effectiveness of societal responses to crime. This course introduces students to the study of criminal behavior and the measurement of crime and victimization. Major theories of crime causation are examined in order to provide possible explanations for crime rates and patterns. Typological categories of crime and the characteristics of those who commit certain types of crimes are also reviewed.



## Required Reading:

- Cullen, F. and Agnew, R. (2003) *Criminological Theory: Past to Present, Essential Readings, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed*, Los Angeles: Roxbury Publishing Company (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> eds are okay).
- Additional readings distributed during class

## Attendance:

Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Students are responsible for ALL material covered in class, whether they are in class or not. You are advised to make a friend in class who would be willing to share class notes with you and you with them since I will not provide notes to students who miss class.

## Absences/Missed Exams:

Only university recognized excuses will be accepted. Excused absences include: illness with a doctor's note, serious family emergency, special curricular requirements (field trips, conferences etc.) and participation in official university activities (e.g., athletics). Students will be required to provide written documentation for any absence.

## Statement on Classroom Disruptions:

Students are expected to be courteous during class. Any student engaged in disruptive behavior will be asked to leave. Examples of disruptive behavior include arriving late to class, repeatedly leaving and entering the classroom without authorization, persisting in speaking without being recognized, the use of cell phones and beepers, use of personal stereo systems, reading outside material, doing crossword puzzles, sleeping and side conversations.

## Assessment Deadlines and Make-up Exams

Submission Deadlines for written work and dates and times for examinations are firm. If you do not intend or will be unable to meet said deadline or attend an exam, you must let the instructor

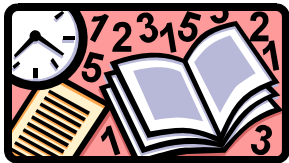
know via email **prior to** the deadline or exam. You will have 48 (actual, real time) hours in which to reschedule and the make-up exam must be taken within seven (7) days of the original exam at a time agreed upon by me. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

#### Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:

Academic dishonesty and plagiarism will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else's work as your own. This includes copying from sources without citing and claiming someone else's original work or ideas as your own. Copying from another student is also considered plagiarism.

Academic integrity is essential to the mission of San José State University. As such, students are expected to perform their own work (except when collaboration is expressly permitted by the course instructor) without the use of any outside resources. Students are not permitted to use old tests, quizzes when preparing for exams, nor may they consult with students who have already taken the exam. When practiced, academic integrity ensures that all students are fairly graded. Violations to the Academic Integrity Policy undermine the educational process and will not be tolerated. It also demonstrates a lack of respect for oneself, fellow students and the course instructor and can ruin the university's reputation and the value of the degrees it offers. We all share the obligation to maintain an environment which practices academic integrity. Violators of the Academic Integrity Policy will be subject to failing this course and being reported to the Office of Student Conduct & Ethical Development for disciplinary action which could result in suspension or expulsion from San José State University. The policy on academic integrity can be found at: [http://sa.sjsu.edu/student\\_conduct](http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct) .

To better understand plagiarism and to aid you in making sure that you are not plagiarizing, please see me and/or visit: <http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/plagiarism/index.htm>



#### Assessment:

**Class Participation/Pop Quizzes/Video Questions/Homework Questions/Hypothetical Debates (25 points):** Participation in class discussions, video question sheets, pop quizzes and short answer style homework assignments will be assessed throughout the semester.

**Theory Paper (75 points):** Write a five-page paper. Choose a theoretical perspective that you think best describes the motivations for crime. You can keep a general focus, choose a specific crime (murder, rape, arson), or a specific criminal (Ted Bundy, Scott Petersen, Andrea Yates). Students will be required to hand in a brief outline a few weeks before the paper is due, to ensure that everyone is on the right track, and tackling their topic appropriately. In your paper, be sure to critically analyze the theory as well as simply describing its predominant arguments – why did you choose it? Why is it better than the other theories we have discussed? What are some of the problems with it? Do any other approaches help your explanation?

**Midterm Examinations (50 points each)** The midterm examination will comprise multiple-choice scantron graded questions and short answer/essay questions. It will be completed during class time in week 7.

**Final Examination (100 points):** The final examination will comprise multiple-choice scantron graded questions and short answer/essay questions. It will be completed during finals week.

**NB: THERE IS NO EXTRA CREDIT IN THIS COURSE**

**Course Add/Drop Statement**

Instructors are permitted to drop students who fail to attend the first scheduled class meeting and who fail to inform the instructor prior to the second class meeting of the reason for any absence and their intention to continue in the class. Some instructors will drop students who do not meet the stated course prerequisites. However, instructors are not required to drop a student from their course. ***It is the student's responsibility to make sure classes are dropped. You, the student,*** are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, withdrawal, etc. found at: [http://sa.sjsu.edu/student\\_conduct](http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct)

**American with Disabilities Act**

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with DRC to establish a record of their disability.

Important note: Your Theory Paper must be submitted to Turnitin.com prior to turning it in to the instructor. You will submit the Turnitin.com "Originality Report" for the paper along with a clean copy of the paper for grading.

**Course Name: JS118; ID Number: 1773539; Password: australia**

**Grade Breakdown:**

(Fill in your grades so you can keep track of your progress)

<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>your points</b>	<b>total</b>
Homework Questions/Participation etc	/	25
Theory Paper	/	75
Midterm 1	/	50
Midterm 2	/	50
Final Exam	/	100
	/	<b>300</b>

Date	Tentative Class Schedule	Due in class	Reading Assignment (3 <sup>rd</sup> ed)
Week 1			
1/25	Introductions and Syllabus What is criminology?		
Week 2			
1/30	Classical and Positivist Perspectives		Ch 1, 2,
2/1	Nature and Extent of Crime Part 1		

Date	Tentative Class Schedule	Due in class	Reading Assignment (3 <sup>rd</sup> ed)
Week 3			
2/6	Nature and Extent of Crime Part 2		Handout
2/8	Biological and Psychological Trait Theories		
Week 4			
2/13	Typologies		Ch 5, 6,
2/15	Debate/Hypothetical		
Week 5			
2/20	<b>First Midterm</b>		
2/22	Social Class (Video)		
Week 6			
2/27	Social Disorganization Theory		Ch 7
3/1	Learning Theories Part 1		Ch 10, 11, 12,
Week 7			
3/6	Learning Theories Part 2		
3/8	Strain Theories Part 1		Ch 15, 18, 19,
Week 8			
3/13	Strain Theories Part 2 (Video)		
3/15	APA Style, Discuss Papers		
Week 9			
3/20	Control Theories		Ch 20, 21, 23,
3/22	Rational Choice, Routine Activities Theory		Ch 38, 39,
Week 10			
3/27 3/29	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>		
Week 11			
4/3	<b>Second Midterm</b>		
4/5	Labeling and Reaction Theories		Ch 24, 25,
Week 12			
4/10	Critical Theory		Ch 27, 28,
4/12	Critical Theory (video)		
Week 13			
4/17	Feminist Theories		Ch 32, 33, 35,
4/19	Women in Prison		
Week 14			
4/24	Developmental Theories		Ch 44, 45*,
4/26	Developmental v Labeling Debate		
Week 15			
5/1	Integrated Theories		Ch 46, 47,
5/3	Where do we go from here? "A Perfect Theory"		
Week 16			
5/8	Student Evaluations etc.		
5/10	Review Session for Final Exam		

**FINAL EXAM DATE TBA... stay tuned!**